



NACIONĀLAIS
ATTĪSTĪBAS
PLĀNS 2020



EIROPAS SAVIENĪBA

Eiropas Reģionālās
attīstības fonds

IEGULDĪJUMS TAVĀ NĀKOTNĒ

Annex 5

To Rules of selection of research applications

International Evaluation Guidelines and Criteria for the Scientific Part of Research Applications

1. Introduction

1.1. Ageing of human resources presents a major problem in the science system of Latvia. In order to solve this problem, within the framework of the European Regional Development Fund it is envisaged to provide aid for post-doctoral research (hereinafter – Cabinet Regulation for the activity)¹, by encouraging post-doctoral experts holding the Doctor's degree to stay in the field, by developing their skills and improving research capacity, by providing the possibilities for commencing the post-doctoral career in scientific institutions or in businesses, as well as by encouraging enhancement of research competences of post-doctoral researchers and their involvement in international research cooperation. Research applications providing the highest potential to achieving the goals of the Smart Specialisation Strategy² (hereinafter – RIS3) of the Republic of Latvia, implementation of the growth priorities or development of the specialisation areas will be eligible for funding:

Directions of transformation of the national economy	Growth priorities	Smart specialisation areas
1. Change of the production and export structure in traditional economy areas	<i>1st priority:</i> More efficient use of raw materials for production of goods with increased added value, creation of new materials and technologies, and diversification of their application. Wider use of non-technological innovations and Latvian	1. Knowledge-intensive bio-economy

¹ Cabinet Regulations No. 50 of 19 January 2016, “On Implementation of Activity 1.1.1.2 “Post-doctoral Research Aid” of the Specific Objective 1.1.1 “To increase the research and innovative capacity of scientific institutions of Latvia and the ability to attract external financing, investing in human resources and infrastructure” of the Operational Programme “Growth and Employment” (<https://likumi.lv/ta/id/279803-darbibas-programmas-izausgume-un-nodarbinatiba-1-1-1-specifiska-atbalsta-merka-palielinat-latvijas-zinatnisko-instituciju>).

² Research, Technology Development and Innovation Guidelines 2014 - 2020. Website: <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/documents/4608>

	creative industry potential to produce goods and services with increased added value of national economy sectors.	2. Biomedicine, medical technologies, bio-pharmacy and biotechnologies
2. Future growth sectors, in which products and services with high added value exist or may appear	<u>2nd priority:</u> The creation of such innovation system that provides support for the creation of new products and technologies within the framework of existing sectors and cross-sectors, as well as for new sectors with high growth potential based on key sectors defining the development and providing an effective new products/services identification system, and that is able to find and provide support for the creation of new products both in the existing sectoral and cross-sectoral frameworks, and creating of new sections with high growth potential.	
3. Sectors with significant horizontal impact and contribution in national economy transformation.	<u>3rd priority:</u> Improvement of energy efficiency, which include the creation of new materials, production process optimisation, introduction of technological innovations, use of alternative energy resources and other solutions.	3. Smart materials, technology and engineering systems
	<u>4th priority:</u> Development of a modern and contemporary standard-compliant ICT system in the private and public sectors.	
	<u>5th priority:</u> A modern, and corresponding to the future labour market demands, education system that facilitates the transformation of national economy and development of competences required for the implementation of RIS3 priorities, enterprising spirit and creativity at all levels of education.	
	<u>6th priority:</u> Advanced knowledge base (basic science and scientific infrastructure) and human capital in areas of knowledge, in which Latvia has a comparative advantage and which are important in the process of transformation of the national economy: in areas of knowledge related to the smart specialisation areas (1) knowledge-intensive bio-economy, (2) biomedicine, medical technologies, bio-pharmacy and biotechnologies, (3) smart materials, technologies and engineering systems, (4) smart energetics, and (5) ICT, as well as key technologies identified by the EC (nanotechnologies, micro-and nano-electronics, photonics, advanced materials and manufacturing systems, biotechnologies).	
	<u>7th priority:</u> Studying of the existing resources of territories and specialisation, proposing the prospective economic	
		4. Smart energy
		5. Information and communications technologies

	development opportunities and directions int. al. leading and prospective business directions in the municipal territories.	
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1.2. It is envisaged that funding will be granted to a scientific institution registered in the Register of scientific institutions of the Republic of Latvia or an enterprise for implementation of an individual research application including international mobility, as well as training and networking measures. The research application shall be implemented by a post-doctoral researcher who is a Latvian or a foreign researcher, who has obtained the Doctor's degree maximum ten years prior to the deadline for submission of the research application in a scientific institution or in an enterprise accepting and providing access to the infrastructure or human resources for implementation of the research needed within the research applications.

The research application may be implemented in a partnership with a foreign or Latvian research institution, university or an enterprise.

Funding shall be granted for performing economic and non-economic fundamental or industrial research. Within the framework of a research application it is also possible to implement the transfer of know-how and technologies, protection of the technology rights to the industrial property object created during the research, enhancing the competences of the post-doctoral researcher, participation in the international mobility and networking activities, supervising, review for Bachelor, Master and doctoral papers and participation in final paper commissions, as well as preparation of other research and innovation projects. Within the scope of the research application the post-doctoral researcher involves society in the research application and informs it about the results of the research application, which are not related to intellectual property rights.

1.3 The highest score in the evaluation of the criteria “Impact” can get the research applications focused on the study of the impact of Covid-19 and the development of innovative solutions in the following topics:

- ✓ solving public health issues;
- ✓ development of electronics and information and communication technology solutions, including aimed at health, education, offices, and e-government;
- ✓ Innovative solutions for business development and adaptation to the changing circumstances (eg., emergencies, climate change).

If the topic of the research applications **focused on the study of the impact of Covid-19** and the development of innovative solutions in the above mentioned topics, **the maximum score in the impact criterion is 5.**

If the topic of the research applications **does not focused on the study of the impact of Covid-19** and the development of innovative solutions in the above mentioned topics, **the maximum score in the impact criterion is 4.4.**

1.4. Evaluation of the scientific quality of research applications shall be organised by the State Education Development Agency (hereinafter - the Agency).

2. Evaluation goal

2.1. The goal of the evaluation is to evaluate the scientific quality of research applications in order to select the best research applications within the tender for funding. Excellence, impact and implementation are the 3 criteria for evaluation of research applications. The evaluation should also encourage development of the

post-doctoral researchers' skills of preparation of applications, therefore argumentation of the evaluation of research applications and received recommendations regarding possibilities of improvement of applications and recommendations for implementation of research applications are essential.

2.2. Evaluation of research applications uses the evaluation principles and approach of the European Union Framework Program for Research and Innovation “Horizon 2020” Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships (hereinafter – MSCA). Contrary to MSCA, the following is not supported:

- ✓ development of study courses and training materials, reading of lectures,
- ✓ development of a separate website intended only for the research application,
- ✓ development of new, separate IT systems or databases not related to the research and not justified in the research.

3. Experts

3.1. The remote anonymous evaluation of the scientific quality of research applications shall be performed by foreign experts included in the European Commission Experts Data Base (<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/experts>) or an equivalent database of foreign scientific experts. Experts summoned for evaluation of each research application shall be selected in compliance with the research direction by considering also their preceding experience in the examination of research projects, within the scope of possibilities ensuring representation of different skills, experience, knowledge, private and public sector.

The selection of experts shall be performed by using the search option based on the field and/ or sub-field of science specified by the applicant of research application and the key words and the summary of the research application. The fields and sub-fields of science shall be classified in compliance with the OECD classification³.

3.2. For evaluation of the scientific quality of each research application 2 experts of the relevant research direction each representing a different foreign research institution shall be invited. One of them shall be designated as the leading expert or consolidator (hereinafter – the consolidator), who upon agreement with the other expert, shall shape a consolidated opinion and shall approve it. If a research application represents a multi- or inter-disciplinary research, experts who either have experience in such multi- or inter-disciplinary research or each of whom represent a particular field of science comprised by the relevant multi- or inter-disciplinary research shall be selected. A single expert may perform evaluation of the scientific quality of several research applications in compliance with his/ her direction of research.

3.3. An expert may not have a conflict of interest regarding the applicant of the research application and the research application subject to evaluation. A conflict of interest is admitted if:

- 1) the expert, his/ her relatives, represented institution or institutions can gain material or other benefit in relation with approval or rejection of the particular research application for receiving the funding;
- 2) the expert is the relative of the post-doctoral researcher or has been the supervisor of the post-doctoral researcher's research work;

³ OECD's Classification and distribution by Fields of Research and Development in accordance with the Frascati manual). Frascati manual, p. 57-59. - https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/frascati-manual-2015_9789264239012-en#page61

- 3) the expert has had joint publications with the post-doctoral researcher during the last 3 years (a publication developed as the result of cooperation of more than 5 research institutions and where the expert or the post-doctoral researcher does not represent the research institution of the leading author of the publication shall be not be deemed a joint publication);
- 4) the expert has participated in implementation of joint research projects with the post-doctoral researcher during the last 3 years (a project implemented as the result of cooperation of more than 5 research institutions and where the expert or the post-doctoral researcher does not represent the research institution in charge of the project coordination shall be not be deemed a joint project);
- 5) the expert admits any other personal attitude to the post-doctoral researcher which may cause doubt regarding the impartiality of his evaluation.

The expert shall attest non-existence of the conflict of interest and shall also attest that the information related with the content of the research application and its evaluation shall be confidential and may not be disclosed to any third parties or used for the benefit of the expert's own interest. Examination of research applications shall be anonymous as regards the applicant of the research application and any third parties. The expert's name, scientific degree and represented institution shall be known to the other experts who evaluate the relevant research application following completion of the initial individual evaluation of the scientific quality of the research application and before performance of the consolidated evaluation.

4. Procedure

4.1. Prior to delivering the research project proposal of the research application to foreign experts for evaluation of the scientific quality, the evaluation of the compliance of the research application with administrative non-complementarity criteria shall be performed.

4.2. Evaluation of the scientific quality of research applications shall be performed in compliance with the present guidelines. The expert is entitled to consult the organisers of the evaluation regarding any matters related with the research application subject to evaluation or the evaluation procedure.

4.3. Evaluation of the scientific quality of research applications may be performed remotely by using the POSTDOC information system. The information system contains the present Rules of Evaluation, submitted research applications subject to evaluation, ensures performance of the evaluation procedure and saving of evaluations, as well as communications of experts with the evaluation organisers.

4.4. The Agency shall invite the selected experts to perform the examination of the research project proposal of particular research applications. When an expert is invited to perform the examination of the research project proposal of a particular research application the following information in English shall be sent to him/ her:

- 1) the post-doctoral researcher's name, surname,
- 2) the institution where the research will be carried out,
- 3) the title and the summary of the research,
- 4) the invitation to act as the consolidators if applicable,
- 5) the present evaluation guidelines,
- 6) the amount of the fee,
- 7) the envisaged time schedule of the examination.

When the consolidator is invited to perform the consolidated evaluation of the research project proposal of the particular research application, the Agency shall consider the expert's scientific qualification and topicality.

Upon the receipt of the expert's (consolidator's) agreement and attestation regarding the non-existence of the conflict of interest and non-disclosure of confidential information, the Agency shall sign a contract with the expert (consolidator) and provide access to the information system to him/ her. The following information accessible to experts is included in the information system:

- 1) Cabinet Regulation;
- 2) Competition regulations;
- 3) the present evaluation guidelines,
- 4) the post-doctoral researcher's CV (in English),
- 5) the research project proposal of the research application (in English).

4.5. Evaluation of the scientific quality of research applications shall consist of two stages:

- 1) the initial individual evaluation by each expert in compliance with all the scientific quality evaluation criteria,
- 2) the definition and approval of the consolidated opinion by the experts' group.

4.6. In the course of performing the initial individual evaluation, the expert shall assign a score, clearly and understandably justify his/ her evaluation regarding each of the evaluation criteria. A score shall be a decimal number from 1 to 5 by using a step of 0.2. Following the entry of both initial individual evaluations of a research application in the POSTDOC information system, they and the information about the expert shall be accessible to both experts of the relevant application. In order to help the experts make the best possible evaluation and to promote a common understanding of the evaluation, an evaluation scale has been developed and is available to the experts. The evaluation scale is available in the POSTDOC information system and is intended for individual use by the experts, it is not mandatory and does not need to be submitted to the POSTDOC information system or otherwise approved or distributed.

In preparing the initial individual evaluation of the research project proposal, the expert may describe compliance with evaluation criteria by using a step of 0.2 by justifying his/ her evaluation. If the evaluation of the evaluation criteria is between full number, the expert can choose the decimal value that is more appropriate for the description of full number.

4.7. Following the entry of both initial individual evaluations of the scientific quality of a research application in the POSTDOC information system, the consolidator shall draft the consolidated opinion. The other expert shall either agree to this draft or present his/ her objections and proposals for the score and argumentation. Following the receipt of objections, the consolidator shall draft a new consolidated opinion. The agreement on the opinion may consist of several stages. The consolidated opinion of the experts' group shall be deemed approved after the other expert's agreement to the draft consolidated opinion prepared by the consolidator has been received.

The consolidated opinion by the experts' group shall contain a number score and justified argumentation on each of the evaluation criteria. A score is a decimal number from 1 to 5 by using a step of 0.2. The score shall not be calculated as the mean or median value of the scores assigned by experts, however, it shall follow from the coordinated argumentation of the experts' opinions. In the argumentation part, regarding

each of the evaluation criteria, also the strengths and weaknesses of the research application shall be specified which may serve as recommendation for improvement of the research application for submitting it in other tenders or contribute to its eventual implementation.

In preparing the consolidated evaluation of the research project proposal, the consolidator may describe compliance with evaluation criteria by using a step of 0.2 by justifying his/ her evaluation. The quantitative score of the consolidated opinion of the experts' group serves for ranking the research applications for granting funding within the tender of the research applications.

The post-doctoral researcher and the applicant of the research application is entitled to familiarise himself/herself with the anonymised consolidated opinion of the experts' group after adoption of the resolution.

4.8. If the consolidator and the other expert admits that there are major disagreements between them and the agreement of the consolidated opinion by the experts' group cannot be attained, they shall notify the evaluation organiser thereof and terminate further evaluation of this research application.

In this case the Agency shall invite the third expert for solving the dispute. The initial individual evaluations prepared by the two preceding experts, the draft consolidated opinion developed by the consolidator and the objections by the other consolidator shall be introduced to him/ her. The third expert shall prepare a new consolidated opinion by the experts' group and submit it to the evaluation organisers. Scores on each of the criteria in this opinion may not exceed the highest score assigned in individual evaluations or be below the lowest score therein. The argumentation on each criterion shall summarise the opinion of all the three experts.

The Agency shall be entitled to invite the third expert also in the cases, when any of experts does not provide an evaluation or there are reasonable doubts about the quality of work of the expert.

4.9. If the consolidated opinion by the experts' group has assigned a score below three to a research application on any of the criteria, and/or if the sum of all the scores after recalculations of coefficients is below 2.3, the relevant research application shall be evaluated as a research application of insufficient scientific quality and shall not be forwarded for further review for granting funding.

5. Evaluation criteria, their explanation

5.1. The provided explanation of the three criteria shall not be deemed exhaustive or excluding, experts are entitled to interpret and to apply it in compliance with the practice and principles of evaluation of research projects adopted in the international research society and to adapt them to the practice adopted in the relevant field of science.

5.2. The expert shall describe the compliance of the research project proposal of the research application with the relevant evaluation criterion by assigning the following scores:

- 1 - a poor application, does not comply with the requirements contained by the criterion or provided information is insufficient for evaluating the relevant criterion, there are essential deficiencies causing doubt regarding the implementation of the research application and attainment of goals,
- 2 - a fair application, complies with the requirements contained by the criterion partially or just generally, there are deficiencies making the overall implementation of the research application and attainment of goals difficult,

- 3 - a good application, generally complies with the requirements contained by the criterion, there are deficiencies which may make the successful implementation of the research application and attainment of high goals difficult;
- 4 - a very good application, complies with the requirements contained by the criterion, still there are few deficiencies;
- 4.4 - **Note that only the impact criterion** has a maximum score of 4.4 points, if an excellent application is submitted, it complies with the top requirements or even exceeds the requirements contained by the criterion, any deficiencies of the application are minor, but the research application does not contribute to the study of the impact of Covid-19 and to the development of innovative solutions in the topics described in point 1.3 of these guidelines;
- 5 - an excellent application, complies with the top requirements or even exceeds the requirements contained by the criterion, any deficiencies of the application are minor.

In the course of performing evaluation of the research project proposal of the research application, experts should take into account the specifics of the relevant direction of research in interpreting criteria and, in particular, whether this is an application of fundamental or industrial research related to economic activity or not related to economic activity.

5.3. A research project proposal of a research application shall be evaluated according to the following evaluation criteria:

Excellence	Impact	Implementation	<i>Additional score points (Evaluated by the State Education Development Agency)</i>	
Quality and credibility of the research/innovation action (level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects)	Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher after receiving funding for the research application	Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan	<i>3.1. There are intentions to raise private funding within the framework of the research application</i>	<i>3.2. Within the framework of the research application there is intention to develop a new product or technology, which may be marketed and for the development of which aid within the scope of a research application was provided.</i>
Quality and clarity of the training, international mobility, transfer of knowledge between the post-doctoral researcher, the research applicant and the partner	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the research application results	Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources		
Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the research team/institution	Quality of the proposed measures to communicate to different target audiences	Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures,		

		including risk management		
Post-doctoral researcher's potential to achieve the position of a professional researcher		Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)		
The research application which contributes to the study of the impact of Covid-19				
Maximum score				
<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
Evaluation adjustment coefficients for research applications not related to economic activity				
35%	20%	15%	10%	10%
Max score after recalculation for research applications not related to economic activity				
1.75	1	0.75	0.1	0.2
Evaluation adjustment coefficients for research applications related to economic activity				
20%	35%	15%	10%	10%
Max score after recalculation for research applications related to economic activity				
1	1.75	0.75	0.1	0.2
The research application which does not contribute to the study of the impact of Covid-19				
Maximum score				
5	4,4	5	1	2
Evaluation adjustment coefficients for research applications not related to economic activity				
35%	20%	15%	10%	10%
Max score after recalculation for research applications not related to economic activity				
1.75	0,88	0.75	0.1	0.2
Evaluation adjustment coefficients for research applications related to economic activity				
20%	35%	15%	10%	10%
Max score after recalculation for research applications related to economic activity				
1	1.54	0.75	0.1	0.2

Evaluation criteria and guidelines to EC experts

Applications shall be evaluated based on the following criteria – excellence, impact and implementation.

The information applicable to the evaluation criteria can be found in the entire Research project proposal, not only in its relevant section, therefore, all the eligible information should be taken into account even though it is located in different places in the Research project proposal.

Each of sub-criteria should be evaluated.

First criterion: Excellence

The excellence criterion includes:

- ✚ Research quality and novelty,
- ✚ Training in anticipated in the research application,
- ✚ Capacity of and interaction between the post-doctoral researcher and the scientific/economic sectors consultant.

Excellence sub-criteria	What should be evaluated
1.1. Quality and credibility of the research/innovation action (level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Contemporaneity, goal of activities and description of the existing situation in the field of the research, ✚ Appropriateness of the research methodology and the research approach, ✚ Originality and innovative aspects of the research application, ✚ Interdisciplinarity aspect (if applicable), ✚ Gender equality aspect (if applicable). <p><i>On the gender dimension.</i> Experts should evaluate gender aspects, if those are applicable to the planned research. In research activities where human beings are involved as subjects or end-users, gender differences may exist. In these cases the gender dimension in the research content has to be addressed as an integral part of the proposal to ensure the highest level of scientific quality.</p>
1.2. Quality and appropriateness of the training, international mobility, transfer of knowledge between the post-doctoral researcher, the research applicant and the partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Evaluation of quality and appropriateness of the offered training, ✚ Evaluation of knowledge transfer between the post-doctoral researcher, the research applicant and the partner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How the post-doctoral researcher will gain new knowledge during the implementation of the research application at the research applicant and the partner organisation, - How the previously acquired skills and knowledge that the post-doctoral researcher will transfer during the implementation of the research application to the research applicant's and partner organisation.

<p>1.3. Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the research team/institution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Experience and achievements of the adviser in the scientific/economic sectors consultant in the research topic proposed, ✚ Integration of the post-doctoral researcher in the research team/ institution, ✚ Nature and quality of the research team/ institution in general, ✚ Planned activities for the integration of the post-doctoral researcher in fields of different competences and disciplines, ✚ Networking activities, which the research applicant's and partner's institutions are able to offer.
<p>1.4. Post-doctoral researcher's potential to achieve the position of a professional researcher.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ To evaluate how the post-doctoral researcher's previously obtained professional experiences and the planned research will promote his/her professional development and establishment of an independent/professionally mature scientist during the period of implementation of the research application, ✚ Taking into account the professional experience of the post-doctoral researcher, to evaluate how competences and skills will change when implementing the research application, ✚ To evaluate the post-doctoral researcher's curriculum vitae (CV section) and professional achievements in the context of the level of experience.

What is the difference between sub-criteria 1.3 and 3.3?

The procedure of enrolment of the post-doctoral researcher included in sub-criterion 1.3 is applicable to the integration of the post-doctoral researcher in the new environment and premises. It is not applicable to the infrastructure capacity of the project applicant and partners, which is described in sub-criterion 3.3.

A career growth plan should be created within the scope of the application. In addition to research and innovation tasks this plan shall include training for the skills to be used, preparation of scientific articles and participation in conferences.

The application shall explain the strategy for career development of the post-doctoral researcher (mainly in sub-criterion 1.4). However, the application shall not include a career development plan (i.e. a detailed list for career plans and planned objectives). Therefore, the evaluation of the application should not be reduced due to the lack of a detailed plan.

Gender aspects

Research applicants are encouraged to evaluate how gender equality aspects are applicable to the planned research. The topic of the research is considered to be related to gender equality aspects in cases, when in the research involving people (or these may be end consumers) it is expected that the results will have different effect on women and men. In these cases, the applicant should integrate gender aspects in the application. The evaluator shall evaluate this as part of "Excellence" (sub-criterion 1.1). Please take into account that gender balance is not applicable to the post-doctoral research application.

Gender aspects should be evaluated, if those are applicable to the planned research.

Second criterion: Impact

The impact criterion is applicable to the post-doctoral researcher’s career, dissemination of results and communication.

Note that only the impact criterion has a maximum score of 4.4 points, if an excellent application is submitted, it complies with the top requirements or even exceeds the requirements contained by the criterion, any deficiencies of the application are minor, but the research application does not contribute to the study of the impact of Covid-19 and to the development of innovative solutions in the topics described in point 1.3 of these guidelines.

Impact sub-criteria	What should be evaluated
2.1. Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher after receiving funding for the research application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ To evaluate the expected impact of the planned research and training on the capacity to increase career prospects for the post-doctoral researcher after the completion of the research application, ✚ To evaluate how new competences and skills obtained during the implementation of the research application (as explained in sub-criterion 1.4) can make the post-doctoral researcher more successful in their long-term career, ✚ To evaluate value added of the research application for the future career development
2.2. Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the research application results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ How the knowledge obtained as a result of the planned activities will be disseminated and exploited, ✚ To evaluate the strategy aimed at dissemination of research results to the target audience (science, industry and other employees, professional organisations, policy makers, etc.) and wider community; ✚ The research application contributes to the study of the impact of Covid-19 and to the development of innovative solutions in the topics described in point 1.3 of these guidelines. ✚ The impact of the results obtained on the attainment of the RIS3 objective⁴, the implementation of growth priorities or the development of specialisation areas, including:

⁴ RIS3 microlevel indicators are:

- newly created job, including those, where scientific staff is employed in the public sector/business sector. The advancement to the fulfilment of indicator is certified by the output indicator i.1.1.1.bk(CO24) “Number of new researchers in the aided units (full time equivalent)” of activity 1.1.1.2;
- co-funding of enterprises for R&D projects (EUR). The advancement to the fulfilment of the indicator is certified by the private investments attracted within the scope of measure 1.1.1.2, which are supplemented by state aid for innovations or research and development projects (EUR), i.1.1.1.f “Private investment which complements public support for innovation or research and development projects”;
- income from licences/patents of scientific institutions (EUR). The advancement to the fulfilment of the indicator is certified by output indicator i.1.1.1.g the number of new products and technologies, which may be marketed and for the development of which aid within the scope of a measure 1.1.1.2 was provided;
- scientific articles published in magazines indexed in international databases (Scopus, Web of Science), i.1.1.1.e. “Number of scientific articles, for the development and publication of which aid is provided”.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • planned management activities for the intellectual property arising from the activities carried out within the framework of the research application; • socioeconomic impact of the planned results of the research application on the implementation of the directions and priorities of transformation of the national economy, including the contribution of expected results of research applications in the fulfilment of the micro level indicators of RIS3; • impact of the results of the research application on building of the innovation capacity of Latvia, which is fostered by the outcome indicator “the number of new products and technologies, which may be marketed (i.1.1.1.g)”. Building of the innovation capacity of Latvia is characterised by: the creation of new market opportunities, promotion of competitiveness and growth of enterprises, resolution of problem matters related to climate change, environment or meeting other needs of the society. <p>✚ To check whether the Gantt chart includes specific activities for the use and dissemination of results.</p>
<p>2.3. Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the action activities to different target audiences.</p>	<p>✚ How the planned public engagement activities contribute to creating awareness of the performed research,</p> <p>✚ How both the research and results will be made known to the public in such a way they can be understood by non-specialists,</p> <p>✚ Whether the Gantt chart includes specific actions.</p>

What is the difference between sub-criteria 1.4 and 2.1?

Sub-criterion 1.4. “Capacity of the post-doctoral researcher to achieve or strengthen professional maturity/ independence during the period of the research application”: the post-doctoral researcher needs to demonstrate how his/her previously obtained personal experiences and the planned research will promote his/her professional development as an independent/professionally mature scientist during the period of implementation of the research application.

Sub-criterion 2.1. “Improvement of researcher’s potential and future career opportunities after the reception of the research application funding”: the application should explain the impact of the planned research and training on career prospects of the post-doctoral researcher after the reception of the research application funding.

Although you would like to expect the planned number of articles and scientific contents to be published, please do not expect for an accurate and detailed plan regarding this, because it will be drafted during the implementation of the research application.

▪ Number of aided new scientists for the implementation of post-doctoral researches. The advancement to the fulfilment of the indicator is certified by the approval and implementation of the research application.

Third criterion: Implementation

The implementation criterion includes the quality of the work plan, the appropriateness of planned tasks and allocated resources, and the management structure.

Implementation sub-criteria	What should be evaluated
3.1. Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Do the activities planned in the application ensure the achievement of the planned research and training objectives and results, ✚ Whether the planned number of months is adequate for the planned activities, ✚ A Gantt chart should be attached. <p>Please evaluate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Work packages (optimum 3-5 packages), ✚ List of major deliverables (if applicable), ✚ List of major milestones (if applicable), ✚ Mobility.
3.2. Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Organisation and management structure, as well as the progress monitoring mechanisms put in place, to ensure that objectives and results are reached, ✚ Risks that might endanger reaching research project objectives and the contingency plans to be put in place should risk occur.
3.3. Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Contribution of the research applicant and the partner in research and training activities, ✚ Main tasks and commitments of the research applicant and the partner (if applicable), ✚ infrastructure, logistics, facilities/equipment offered in as far as they are necessary for the good implementation of the research project. <p>On the co-operation partner. Kindly note that a confirmation letter from the co-operation partner is not required in the application.</p>

If not Gantt chart is attached to the application, please make sure that the information about work packages, deliverables, milestones and mobility is available in the form of text.

The form of the initial individual evaluation by each expert

Initial individual evaluation of the scientific quality of research applications by the remote evaluation expert

Research Application No.	
Title of the Research Application	

Expert	<i>Name, Surname, Degree, Institution</i>
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Criterion	Arguments, comments	Score
Excellence	Strengths: Weaknesses:	
Impact	Strengths: Weaknesses:	
Implementation	Strengths: Weaknesses:	
Date		

Form of the consolidated opinion by the experts' group

Consolidated opinion of the scientific quality of research applications by the remote evaluation experts' group

Research Application No.	
Title of the Research Application	

Experts	<i>Name, Surname, Degree, Institution</i> <i>The consolidator is stated</i>
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Criterion	Arguments, comments	Score
Excellence	Strengths: Weaknesses:	
Impact	Strengths: Weaknesses:	
Implementation	Strengths: Weaknesses:	
Total score		

Date	
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Evaluation Scale for Research Applications

Title of sub-criterion	No. of sub-criterion	Evaluation				
		1	2	3	4	5
Excellence	1					
Quality and credibility of research / innovation activities (level of novelty, appropriate consideration for interdisciplinary / multidisciplinary and gender aspects)	1.1.					
Contemporaneity, goal of activities and description of the existing situation in the field of the research	1.1.					
Appropriateness of the research methodology and the research approach	1.1.					
Originality and innovative aspects of the research application	1.1.					
Gender equality aspect (if applicable).	1.1.					
Quality and appropriateness of the training, international mobility, transfer of knowledge between the post-doctoral researcher, the research applicant and the partner	1.2.					
Evaluation of quality and appropriateness of the offered training,	1.2.					
Evaluation of knowledge transfer between the post-doctoral researcher, the research applicant and the partner: - How the post-doctoral researcher will gain new knowledge during the implementation of the research application at the research applicant and the partner organisation, - How the previously acquired skills and knowledge that the post-doctoral researcher will transfer during the implementation of the research application to the research applicant's and partner organisation.	1.2.					
Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the research team/institution	1.3.					
Experience and achievements of the adviser in the scientific/economic sectors consultant in the research topic proposed,	1.3.					
Integration of the post-doctoral researcher in the research team/ institution,	1.3.					
Nature and quality of the research team/ institution in general,	1.3					
Planned activities for the integration of the post-doctoral researcher in fields of different competences and disciplines,	1.3.					
Networking activities, which the research applicant's and partner's institutions are able to offer.	1.3.					

Post-doctoral researcher's potential to achieve the position of a professional researcher.	1.4.					
To evaluate how the post-doctoral researcher's previously obtained professional experiences and the planned research will promote his/her professional development and establishment of an independent/professionally mature scientist during the period of implementation of the research application	1.4.					
Taking into account the professional experience of the post-doctoral researcher, to evaluate how competences and skills will change when implementing the research application,	1.4.					
To evaluate the post-doctoral researcher's curriculum vitae (CV section) and professional achievements in the context of the level of experience.	1.4.					
Impact	2					
Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher after receiving funding for the research application	2.1.					
To evaluate the expected impact of the planned research and training on the capacity to increase career prospects for the post-doctoral researcher after the completion of the research application	2.1.					
To evaluate how new competences and skills obtained during the implementation of the research application (as explained in sub-criterion 1.4) can make the post-doctoral researcher more successful in their long-term career	2.1.					
To evaluate value added of the research application for the future career development	2.1.					
Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the research application results	2.2.					
How the knowledge obtained as a result of the planned activities will be disseminated and exploited	2.2.					
To evaluate the strategy aimed at dissemination of research results to the target audience (science, industry and other employees, professional organisations, policy makers, etc.) and wider community	2.2.					
The research application contributes to the study of the impact of Covid-19 and to the development of innovative solutions in the topics described in point 1.3 of these guidelines	2.2.					
The impact of the results obtained on the attainment of the RIS3 objective, the implementation of growth priorities or the development of specialisation areas	2.2.					
To check whether the Gantt chart includes specific activities for the use and dissemination of results.	2.2.					
Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the action activities to different target audiences.	2.3.					
How the planned public engagement activities contribute to creating awareness of the performed research	2.3.					

How both the research and results will be made known to the public in such a way they can be understood by non-specialists	2.3.					
Whether the Gantt chart includes specific actions	2.3.					
Implementation	3					
Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources.	3.1.					
Do the activities planned in the application ensure the achievement of the planned research and training objectives and results	3.1.					
Whether the planned number of months is adequate for the planned activities	3.1.					
A Gantt chart should be attached. Please evaluate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work packages (optimum 3-5 packages), - List of major deliverables (if applicable), - List of major milestones (if applicable), - Mobility. 	3.1.					
Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk management	3.2.					
Organisation and management structure, as well as the progress monitoring mechanisms put in place, to ensure that objectives and results are reached	3.2.					
Risks that might endanger reaching research project objectives and the contingency plans to be put in place should risk occur	3.2.					
Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure).	3.3.					
Contribution of the research applicant and the partner in research and training activities	3.3.					
Main tasks and commitments of the research applicant and the partner (if applicable)	3.3.					
Infrastructure, logistics, facilities/equipment offered in as far as they are necessary for the good implementation of the research project.	3.3.					